



# Excelsior Public School Newsletter

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Newsletter – Week 4 Term 2 (21<sup>st</sup> May 2020)

## Important Dates

Term 2	
Date	Event
25.5.20	All students return to school for face to face teaching
28.5.20	3-6 Virtual assembly
4.6.20	K-2 Virtual assembly
8.6.20	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
11.6.20	3-6 Virtual assembly
18.6.20	K-2 Virtual assembly
25.6.20	3-6 Virtual assembly
2.7.20	K-2 Virtual assembly
3.7.20	Last day of Term 2
20.7.20	Staff Development Day
21.7.20	All students return to school for Term 3

### Other Key Dates

Year 6 Canberra Excursion	- postponed until Term 4. Final date TBC (previously 1.7.20 - 3.7.20)
Year 5 Camp	- 2.11.20 - 4.11.20
Year 6 Farewell	- 8.12.20

## From the Principal

Dear Parents

By now you would be aware that all students will be returning to school next Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Learning from home and through alternate learning plans at school has been challenging for all involved. I again want to thank our entire community, students, parents and teachers for their hard work and dedication to maintaining learning during this unsettling time.

Today I sent out, via the Skoolbag APP, a guide to students returning to face to face teaching, which has been developed by the Department of education. I encourage parents to read this in conjunction with the information contained in this newsletter about students returning to school and the procedures that will be in place at Excelsior Public School.

NSW Department of Education

### This guide is for parents and carers

A guide to NSW school students returning to face-to-face learning

Information has been updated as at 19 May 2020, until further notice.

education.nsw.gov.au

The link below also provides information about the Department of Education's response to COVID-19. Parents may find this information useful.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families#School2>

I am pleased to report that our school upgrade is now complete. The final stage of the upgrade was

the refurbishment of the old canteen and special purpose rooms into 2 new classrooms. These spaces have now been handed over to the school. We are currently working through rectifying some minor defects. Once this happens 4H and 4L will be moving into these beautiful new spaces.

**Excelsior Public School**  
Upgrade complete

The Excelsior Public School upgrade has now been completed. We have delivered:

- 14 new learning spaces
- A new three-storey building
- New library
- New canteen
- Refurbished administration area
- Updated security and IT systems
- New school entrance

Thank you for your patience during construction, we are thrilled to deliver this project for your school community and hope you enjoy your new spaces.

I look forward to welcoming all of our students back to Excelsior and their classrooms next week.

Kind Regards,  
Sandra McKay  
Principal

## Important Information

### Return to School for All Students

The Premier this week announced that all students in NSW government schools would return to school on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

Please read the information below as it contains details of procedures that will be followed at Excelsior Public School.

#### **Attendance**

All students are expected to attend school unless they are unwell. Usual roll marking procedures will occur. If your child is not at school please notify us via the Skoolbag App or send in a note when they return detailing the reason for their absence. As of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May students should either be:

- At school;
- At home because they are currently unwell;
- At home because they have a medical certificate which states they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition.

#### **School Drop Off and Pick Up**

As of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May parents will be required to drop the children at the school gates of a morning and arrange a pick up location outside of the school. Unless essential, parents will not be allowed onto the school site. If parents do require to come onsite they will need to sign into the school via the school office. It is now essential that we are aware of all people who are onsite at any time during the school day.

Of a morning staff will be on duty at the school gates to welcome students to school. Once the school bell rings the school gates will be locked. Any students who arrive after the 9am bell will need to do so via the school office.

Each morning from 8:30am the COLA and Upper Quad will be open for morning play. Once the 9am bell rings, students should go straight to their classroom. Please ensure that your child is aware of this procedure. A social script developed by Mrs Gatt will be uploaded to the Skoolbag App later today. Please read this with your child.

Of an afternoon, the school gates will remain locked until the duty teacher arrives at 3pm. Parents are asked to arrange a pick up location where they are able to socially distance from other parents. Teachers will be on duty at each exit gate to ensure students safely leave the school.

### **Alternate Learning Plans**

As of Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May the expectation is that all students will be learning at school. No alternate learning plans will be provided.

### **Reports**

All schools in Australia adhere to Federal Government guidelines when it comes to student reporting. Advice has recently been given on the requirements of reporting in Semester 1. Some changes to reporting guidelines have been made in response to changed teaching and learning because of COVID-19. Staff at Excelsior are currently working through these guidelines and more information about reporting will be provided once this occurs.

### **Social Distancing**

We have been advised that social distancing of children in schools is not required. Social distancing of adults however will be practised. While social distancing of students is not required, teachers will be making use of the space available to them in the classroom and students will be encouraged in the playground to play games not requiring close contact.

### **Hygiene Measures**

Teachers will continue to encourage good hygiene practises. This includes correct cough and sneeze etiquette and the regular washing and/or sanitising of hands. The school has been supplied with additional quantities of soap and hand sanitiser. Students may choose to bring and use their own hand sanitiser or they will be encouraged to use the sanitiser supplied by the school.

Additional cleaners have been employed, this includes day cleaning. The toilets and regular touch points such as hand rails and door handles will be regularly cleaned throughout the day.

Students are asked to bring their own drink bottles to school. Water bottle filling stations are available throughout the school, however water bubblers have been taped off to prevent usage.

### **Canteen**

From Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May the canteen will reopen. At this stage the canteen will operate for lunch orders only. To avoid money handling we ask that all lunch orders be made via the Qkr! APP.

### **Uniform Shop**

The uniform shop is currently taking orders. Please fill in an "Order Form" and email it to the Uniform Shop or drop it into the school office. Parents can arrange for uniform to be delivered to students via their classroom or can arrange pick up from the school office.

We are aware that parents have had difficulty purchasing uniforms. No student will be disciplined for being out of school uniform. If you do not have correct uniform please ensure your child is dressed for the weather conditions in clothing as close as possible to the school uniform until you are able to arrange the purchase of correct uniform.

### **Virtual Assemblies**

From next week we will be conducting virtual assemblies. Class merit awards and Principal awards will be handed out via these virtual assemblies. Students will remain in their own classroom and watch these assemblies via their interactive boards. Virtual assemblies will also be uploaded to the school website.

### **Tell Them From Me Student Survey Term 2**

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-

wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. More than 6,300 schools in Australia and around the world have used *Tell Them From Me* to survey 5.4 million students. Capturing the voices of our students will help improve how we do things at our school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> June. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form for the survey is being sent home on the skoolbag app. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>.

Georgia Couqué  
Deputy Principal

## Emu Blue Community Cafe

The Emu Blue Café will remain closed until we move into Phase 4, where schools will resume full operation.

## UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop is currently taking orders. Please fill in an Order Form and email it to the Uniform Shop or drop it into the school office. Parents can arrange for uniforms to be delivered to students via their classroom or can arrange pick up from the school office.

## CANTEEN

### CANTEEN NEWS

The canteen committee hope you have all remained safe and well during these unprecedented times.

The canteen will begin the process of reopening from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. We will be open each day for **lunch orders only** at this stage. The QKR! App is ready to receive your orders.

Best wishes to you all,  
The canteen committee



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